

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BANGKO 00936 151304Z

53

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 /024 W

----- 109706

R 151211Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6817

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 0936

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP, TH

SUBJ: CODEL ABBABBO BREAKFAST MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER
CHATCHAI

1. DUE TO VOLATILE DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION IN THAILAND, FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI WAS NOT AVAILABLE FOR THE SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT WITH CODEL ON JANUARY 8. IN RETURN, CHATCHAI HOSTED A BREAKFAST FOR CODEL INCLUDING WIVES AND STAFF PRIOR TO THEIR DEPARTURE ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 1976.

2. AFTER AN INFORMAL BUFFET BREAKFAST FOR CODEL PLUS AMBASSADOR AND MRS. WHITEHOUSE, DCM AND MRS. MASTERS, CONTROL OFFICER AND SEVERAL STAFF MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, CHATCHAI GAVE A SHORT SPEECH IN WHICH HE COMMENTED THAT AFTER THE FALL OF INDOCHINA, EVERYONE EXPECTED THAILAND TO BE THE NEXT DOMINO TO FALL, BUT THAILAND, IS STILL HERE. WE SPEAK ENGLISH, NOT FRENCH, HE SAID. THERE ARE ONLY FOUR MEMBERS OF THE "DOMINO CLUB" (THE INDOCHINA STATES) AND THAILAND IS NOT ONE OF THEM. CHATCHAI THEN ASKED FOR QUESTIONS BY THE CODEL.

3. THE FIRST QUESTION WAS FROM REPRESENTATIVE ADDABBO WHO ASKED WHAT THE RTG WAS DOING ABOUT NARCOTICS TRAFFIC THROUGH THE COUNTRY. CHATCHAI DESCRIBED THE DIFFICULTY IN CONTROLLING THE LONG AND DIFFICULT BORDER WITH BURMA; HE ALSO MENTIONED PROBLEMS CREATED BY THE PRESENCE OF LARGE NUMBERS OF HILL-TRIBES AND MEMBERS OF THE FORMER KMT IN THE AREA. CHATCHAI CONCLUDED THAT THAILAND COULD USE MORE HELICOPTERS TO SUPPORT ITS EFFORTS. MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, PHRIAPHONG KASEMSI, DESCRIBED THE U.S.-THAI JOINT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BANGKO 00936 151304Z

AGREEMENT OF 1971 AND SUMMARIZED OUR COOPERATION SINCE THAT

TIME. MR. ADDABBO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS PROBLEM FOR THE UNITED STATES AND SAID HE NEEDED TO ASSURE HIS CONSTITUENTS THAT THAILAND WAS WORKING WITH US TO ELIMINATE NARCOTICS TRAFFIC FROM THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE.

4. THE NEXT GROUP OF QUESTIONS FOCUSED ON THE INSURGENCY, WITH REPRESENTATIVE ADDABBO TAKING THE LEAD. MR. ADDABBO NOTED THAT THE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE MUST JUSTIFY FUNDS FOR FOREIGN AID NOT ONLY TO THEIR COLLEAGUES, BUT ALSO TO THEIR CONSTITUENTS. HE CITED ASSURANCES HE HAD RECEIVED IN EARLIER YEARS ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR SURVIVAL OF THE NON-COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA. HE ASKED HOW HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES COULD BE SURE THAT, AFTER THE EXPENDITURE OF LARGE AMOUNTS OF MONEY BY THE U.S., THAILAND WOULD NOT ALSO FALL TO THE COMMUNISTS. CHATCHAI REITERATED HIS EARLIER COMMENT ON THE DOMINO THEORY, SUMMARIZED THAILAND'S STRENGTHS COMPARED WITH INDOCHINA AND SAID THAT, WHILE THAILAND CONTINUES TO WANT CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE U.S., IT IS ALSO MOVING TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH ITS NEW COMMUNIST NEIGHBORS. HE THEN SUMMARIZED THAILAND'S CONTACTS WITH HANOI, SAIGON AND PHNOM PENH ALONG LINES HE USED WITH SENATOR JOHNSTON (BANGKOK 0163). HE ALSO NOTED THAT IN LAOS, THE NEW GOVERNMENT LEANS TOWARD HANOI BUT THE LAOTIAN PEOPLE LEAN TOWARDS THE THAI. CHATCHAI THEN BRIEFLY DESCRIBED THE PROBLEM OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES IN THAILAND AND THANKED THE U.S. FOR ITS SUPPORT IN MEETING PROBLEM.

5. REPRESENTATIVE EDWARDS ASKED WHETHER THE DEATH OF CHOU EN-LAI (CHOU'S DEATH WAS HEADLINED IN THE NEWS MEDIA THE PREVIOUS EVENING AND THE MORNING OF JANUARY 10) WOULD BRING ANY CHANGE IN PRC FOREIGN POLICY. CHATCHAI ANSWERED FIRMLY THAT HE FORESAW NO CHANGE. HE SAID HE HAD MET TENG HSIAO-PING AND BELIEVED HE WOULD CONTINUE PRESENT POLICIES.

6. REPRESENTATIVE ADDABBO THEN ASKED THE FOREIGN MINISTER ABOUT THE RTG MILITARY BUDGET AND THE CONDITION OF THE THAI ARMED FORCES. CHATCHAI SAID THAT MUCH OF THEIR MILITARY EQUIPMENT IS OLD, MOREOVER, THAILAND--AFTER 25 YEARS OF U.S. MILITARY AID--IS STILL NOT SELF SUFFICIENT IN BASIC ITEMS. HE SAID THAILAND URGENTLY NEEDS U.S. MILITARY AID AND WISHES ALSO TO HAVE OUR HELP THROUGH PRIVATE FIRMS IN DEVELOPING THAILAND'S CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BANGKO 00936 151304Z

OWN PRODUCTION CAPABILITY FOR ARMAMENTS. WITH THE U.S. WITHDRAWAL, THAILAND CANNOT STAND ALONE IF HANOI ATTEMPTS A MILITARY INVASION. CHATCHAI COMPLAINED ALSO ABOUT THE UNCERTAINTY OF U.S. AID. SOVIET AID TO ITS ALLIES, HE SAID, IS LIKE A SLOW BUT STEADY STEAMROLLER. U.S. AID IS LIKE A RACING CAR--SOMETIMES VERY FAST BUT IT OCCASIONALLY MISSES THE CURVES.

7. REPRESENTATIVE ADDABBO MENTIONED THE PROBLEMS THE CONGRESS

FACES IN JUSTIFYING TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE CONTINUED EXPENDITURES FOR FOREIGN AID. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT IF THE USG AND RTG WORKED TOGETHER, WERE RESPONSIVE TO EACH OTHER'S NEEDS AND IF THE RTG DID AS MUCH BY WAY OF SELF HELP AS POSSIBLE, THEN HE BELIEVED CONGRESS WOULD BE SYMPATHETIC TO THAILAND'S REQUIREMENTS.

8. CHATCHAI THEN LAUNCHED INTO A LENGTHY DISCUSSION OF THE U.S. PL-480 RICE PROGRAM, STRESSING THE THAI HOPE THAT THE USG WILL NOT INVADE TRADITIONAL THAI MARKETS. HE SAID THAILAND PRODUCES RICE BUT THE U.S. MANUFACTURES BOTH RICE AND AUTOMOBILES. THE U.S., AS A DEVELOPED COUNTRY, SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON AUTOMOBILES AND LEAVE RICE PRODUCTION TO UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES LIKE THAILAND.

9. REPRESENTATIVE SMITH ASKED ABOUT THE JAPANESE PRESENCE (BUSINESS) IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND CHATCHAI GAVE A SHORT, FIRM "SELFISH" FOR THE ANSWER. REPRESENTATIVE ADDABBO ASKED HOW THE THAI WOULD FEEL ABOUT A POSSIBLE MILITARY BUILDUP BY JAPAN. CHATCHAI INDICATED THAT THE THAI DID NOT SEE THAT AS A THREAT.

10. THE STAFF MEMBERS OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WHO WERE PRESENT EMPHASIZED IN SEPARATE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CODEL THAT TRADITIONALLY THERE HAS BEEN A LONG AND CLOSE ASSOCIATION BETWEEN THE PEOPLE OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES AND THAT, WHILE THE RTG DID WANT TO BECOME SELF SUFFICIENT, IT STILL WANTED CLOSE RELATIONS AND CONTINUED AID FROM THE U.S. WHITEHOUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, MEETINGS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGKO00936
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760015-0684
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760156/aaaabxcl.tel
Line Count: 144
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <29 SEP 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL ABBABBO BREAKFAST MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CHATCHAI
TAGS: OREP, TH, (ADDABBO), (CHATCHAI CHUNHAWAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006